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CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS

INFORMATION

May 23, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HAIG

FROM: R. G. Livingston

SUBJECT: Soviets Release American Citizen Held Since April

Embassy Moscow reports (cable at Tab A) that the Soviets have decided to release an American named Paul Sjeklocha whom they arrested seven weeks ago for smuggling guns into the Soviet Union. They are expelling him to Austria. A later report from the Embassy, which we have not yet received, confirms his departure for Vienna.

Summit atmosphere accounts for the Soviet move, no doubt.

Sjeklocha has so far insisted on no publicity, but we cannot rule out the possibility of his wife, who is in the US, talking to reporters.

This is for your information only. No action is required. If you want to know more about Sjeklocha, you can read about him in Mr. Sonnenfeldt's memorandum of May 11 (Tab B).

DOS Review Completed.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

RGL:hc

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